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Der entoptische Inhalt des Auges und das entoptische Sehfeld beim hallucinatorischen Sehen. Prof. J. HOPPE. Allg. Zeitschr. f. Psychiatrie, Jan. 1887.

The author rejects the theory of centrally initiated and centrifugally projected hallucinations or pseudo-hallucinations in the sense advocated by Kandinsky, and repudiates the term "reflex hallucination" on the ground that hallucination implies consciousness and reflex action excludes it. Hallucinations are defined as involuntary perceptions constructed from internal stimulus of the sensory nerves. This stimulation may be spontaneous by chemical, mechanical, vasomotor, trophic, or muscular action, may depend on the action of subcortical centres, on the entrance of already acquired concepts into the centre, or on the perceptive activity of consciousness. The material of hallucination is the excitation of the peripheral end of the nerves of sense. On falling asleep by day, Professor Hoppe has a sense of growing pressure between his fingers, as if holding a cigar, so vividly that he often looks to see if it is there, and with closed eyes often seems to see it. This spontaneously aroused sense of pressure is the material of hallucination. Sleeping with arm hanging down from a sofa, as the blood pressure increases and the hand seems to close more tightly, the sense of holding a rod becomes so vivid that only the eye can dissipate the hallucination. In the eye nothing in front of the retina can justly be received as material of hallucination. These, and pressure phosphenes, the images of retinal vessels, zigzag figures, the phenomena of contrast and physiological color sensations, are rather to be called illusions. But the pupil, if it be visible, blood corpuscles, the pulsation of the central artery, persistent after-images, and subjective phenomena represent material of hallucination. After-images the original of which has escaped us, and which we may later remember to have seen. But if we cannot do so, the act of perception is the same as if the real objects were before us. Although the entoptic material of the eye is transformed in an hallucinatory sense. Many forms emerge from the macula lutea in entoptic seeing with closed eye, suggesting that it is a seat of memory for images that reach it from without. The writer has repeatedly discovered, after special search in his environment, the originals of strange forms that first entered his consciousness as after-images, but had themselves passed unobserved. Memory consists largely of persistent after-images, and if it is a function of all nervous tissue, may be in part located in the retina, and thus the questionable hypothesis of excentric projection from the cortex be obviated. A long and minute description of the sequence of images, discs, cubes, sand, raindrops, carpet patterns waved by the pulse, clouds that become ships, fields of corn, trees, etc., as observed by the author in his eyes, pronounced normal by an expert ophthalmologist, follows. These are ascribed to circulatory and nutritive processes in the retina, which are also in this case material of hallucination.

Gegenbemerkung "eine neue Urtheilstäuschung im Gebiete des Gesichtssinnes" betreffend. SIGM. EXNER. Pflüger's Archiv, 1887, p. 776.

Three years ago Exner described the following striking phenomena: On an extended background of uniform brilliancy a small field of different hue but of about the same brightness is superposed. If the brightness of the background is changed by a flickering of the source of light, it is the small field, which is really constantly illum-

inated, that seems to flicker, and the larger background appears unchanged. In a longer article in the same *Archiv*, 1886, Hering savagely criticises Exner's phenomena as not new and not illusions of judgment but of sensation, and intimates that Exner has not taken the trouble to study his views, but follows Helmholtz blindly. Exner replies that he himself discovered independently and in another way the central element of Hering's theory of contrast, the influence of one part of the retina by another. While in general a believer in Hering's contrast theory, he finds it inadequate to the explanation of many details.

Handbuch der physiologischen Optik. H. VON HELMHOLTZ. 1886.

The first three *Lieferungen* of an entirely revised edition of this great classical work are received. The first edition, which has long been out of print, was a work of amazing experimental and literary industry and acumen. In the wellnigh a quarter of a century which has elapsed since its appearance, so much work has been done in this field that a thorough revision of it to the end will involve much labor and be of correspondingly great value. We trust nothing will interfere with its completion.

The Dreams of the Blind. By JOSEPH JASTROW, Ph. D. New Princeton Review, January, 1888.

As long ago as 1838 Dr. G. Heermann published an exceedingly valuable study on this subject, concluding from a broad induction that those who lost sight before the age of from five to seven years do not in adult life continue to dream in visual terms as those do who lose sight after this critical period. He also concluded that deafness carried mutism with it before but not after this same period, which was also critical for dream memory of lost limbs. Dr. Jastrow here takes up the general subject on the basis of an examination of nearly 200 blind persons, and while in general confirming Heermann's results, modifies them in essential details and adds much new material in an article of value and interest and with a wide range of suggestive allusion and literary reference. From 100 answers to the question "What is your earliest remembrance of yourself?" Dr. Jastrow found the average age to go back to 5.2 years. At about this age he says there is a declaration of independence of the sense centres from their food supply of sensations. Thus it can no longer be said that when a sense organ is totally destroyed the ideas received by that organ perish too. The writer believes the blind on the whole to dream less than the seeing, but that females dream more than males. Dreams decline from childhood to age, and those of the blind are most likely to be in terms of hearing.

The Writings of Laura Bridgman. By E. C. SANFORD, Fellow of the Johns Hopkins University. Two articles reprinted from the Overland Monthly, 1887.

The valuable reports of Dr. Howe during the most interesting stages of the education of this famous blind deaf-mute are out of print, and Mrs. Lamson did not utilize for her biography the very voluminous journals kept by Laura herself during this period, which Mr. Sanford here has for the first time read through and subjects to a careful analysis which abounds in valuable material too detailed